

SENATOR BARNETT: I think it's a dispute, and I have to say, think, because I'm not that familiar with it, Senator Rumery, but I think it is disputed in the formula and the way the rates are arrived at and I think this is the problem they have with the contract.

SENATOR RUMERY: Did they pay any bills under this agreement at all?

SENATOR BARNETT: Yes, they have been paying the regular rates, as I understand it all these years that this has been in court. The part that they have not paid is the disputed part.

SENATOR RUMERY: Well, I get a little discouraged with this when both of these entities are owned by the people of Nebraska and here we have one entity suing another one and it's been referred to here many times that it comes out of the individual's electric bill that is paid month by month. I hope there is some way we can take care of this. For this reason I would like to oppose Senator Lamb's bill to kill this bill at this time. I think we ought to keep it alive and see what we can do to get this thing resolved.

SENATOR BARNETT: Could I respond to that last remark you made?

SENATOR RUMERY: Yes. I think I have a little time left. Use it.

SENATOR BARNETT: My problem is and I think the Senators that have been opposing this issue should pay attention to this. Senator Lamb, Senator Mills, Senator Dworak, Duis, I think that you have misunderstood this bill from the start. I think that you should understand that L.E.S. is probably as much at fault as N.P.P.D. You yourself have said your rates have increased in your rural areas because of what has happened to L.E.S. Do you think for one minute that this would not help solve your problems if you made L.E.S. go into arbitration with N.P.P.D.? It would help your situation from the point of instead of dragging on a case for three, four or five years, they would have to come to some kind of an agreement within six months, and if you want to make it binding arbitration, that is fine with me, Senator Brennan, but I think that the people that oppose this issue at this time have entirely looked at the issue wrong because if you could get L.E.S. into arbitration, you would probably solve some of your own rural problems that you have with N.P.P.D.

SENATOR NICHOL: Senator Kelly.

SENATOR KELLY: Mr. President, colleagues, for the purpose of this debate I'm going to support the kill motion. Now please listen a little bit as to why--I've got to do something on the kill motion--on this point of why this bill in the first place, the reason for this bill in the first place is that without it there's nobody can move. There cannot be binding arbitration of any kind in between the power districts without direct orders from this Legislature. Now get this. There are no such orders to the power districts of Nebraska and only this Legislature can do it. A year ago this Legislature passed LR 34 in which we would study public power in Nebraska so that we would have a full grasp and understanding of the entity in which this Legislature has created so that when this day arrived, as many others will arrive, we would know something about public power in detail as to how things work. We must be extremely careful because public power is the only thing we've got. We don't